

THE WASHINGTON POST

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1974 A 3

Colleges See Chaos in Data Access

By Eric Wentworth

Washington Post Staff Writer

College officials warned yesterday that a new law granting students access to the confidential information the colleges compile about them may lead to legal and administrative chaos.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which goes into effect Nov. 19, gives the students the right to inspect, challenge and control use of the information.

Daniel Steiner, lawyer for Harvard University, said hardly any college or university in the nation would be in compliance.

But John Kwapisz, aide to Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons.-R-N.Y.), who sponsored the measure, said he was receiving reports that compliance was possible. He said Buckley was considering amendments to refine certain provisions but couldn't support delaying the law's effect as higher education groups have been asking.

William Rioux, representing the National Committee for Citizens in Education, also defended the law's general thrust before a largely hostile audience at the College Entrance Examination Board annual meeting here.

Rioux compared the students' new rights to the access being sought by consumers to information compiled about them by credit bureaus and insurance companies. He said the era was ending when it was legitimate to protect individuals from themselves.

Kwapisz said the Buckley measure was first aimed at preventing misuse of information that elementary and secondary schools keep on file about their students.

It would allow parents of those younger students to inspect information about their offspring in the schools' official student files, and to challenge through a hearing procedure any information they consider inaccurate or biased. Moreover, the school would have to have parents' written permission in most cases to release any file information to third parties such as police, social workers or employers.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1974 A 3

Colleges See Chaos in Data Access

By Eric Wentworth
Washington Post Staff Writer

College officials warned yesterday that a new law granting students access to the confidential information the colleges compile about them may lead to legal and administrative chaos.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which goes into effect Nov. 19, gives the students the right to inspect, challenge and control use of the information.

Daniel Steiner, lawyer for Harvard University, said hardly any college or university in the nation would be in compliance.

But John Kwapisz, aide to Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons.-R-N.Y.), who sponsored the measure, said he was receiving reports that compliance was possible. He said Buckley was considering amendments to refine certain provisions but couldn't support delaying the law's effect as higher education groups have been asking.

William Rioux, representing the National Committee for Citizens in Education, also defended the law's general thrust before a largely hostile audience at the College Entrance Examination Board annual meeting here.

Rioux compared the students' new rights to the access being sought by consumers for information compiled about them by credit bureaus and insurance companies. He said the era was ending when it was legitimate to protect individuals from themselves.

Kwapisz said the Buckley measure was first aimed at preventing misuse of information that elementary and secondary schools keep on file about their students.

It would allow parents of those younger students to inspect information about their offspring in the schools' official student files, and to challenge through a hearing procedure any information they consider inaccurate or biased. Moreover, the school would have to have parents' written permission in most cases to release any file information to third parties such as police, social workers or employers.